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August 22, 2006

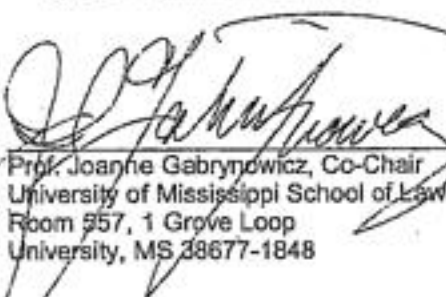
Secretary Dirk Kempthorne  
Department of the Interior  
1849 - C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Recommendation from the Advisory committee for the U.S. Department of the Interior,  
National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive (NSLRSDA) FACA Committee  
File No. 216019


Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

On July 27, 2006, the National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive Advisory Committee (Committee) convened its last meeting under a 2-year Charter. The Committee was established, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and other applicable laws, to assist the Office of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, in coordination with the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in carrying out responsibilities under the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992 (P.L., 102-555). This Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to consult with and seek advice from users and producers of remote sensing data and data products in determining the initial content of, or in upgrading NSLRSDA's basic data set

The Committee submits, herein, its White Paper and recommendation on "Future of U.S. Land Imaging Program Governance."



Prof. Joanne Gabrynowicz, Co-Chair  
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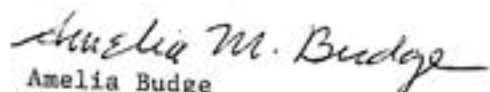


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cc: John Faundeen, Federal Designated Officer  
R.J. Thompson, Director, EROS  
Barb Ryan, Associate Director, Geography Discipline  
Tim Petty, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science  
P. Patrick Leahy, Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
Gene Whitney, National Science and Technology Council, OSTP



Prof. Gerald Nelson  
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Amelia Budge  
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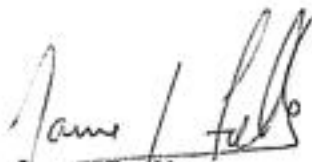
Herbert Satterlee, III  
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Darrel Williams  
Associate Chief, Hydrospheric  
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Kass Green  
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Dr. George Seielstad  
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## Future of U.S. Land Imaging Program Governance

“The Future of Operational Land Imaging Working Group is leading an effort to develop a long-term plan to achieve technical, financial, and managerial stability for operational land imaging in accord with the goals and objectives of the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System<sup>1</sup>.” The working group, in addressing the long-term plan, must recommend a governance model most likely to achieve the desired stability.

The National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive Advisory Committee (the Committee) commends progress made by the Future Land Imaging Interagency Working Group (FLIIWG) toward selecting a governance model to take responsibility for the U.S. Land Imaging Program, as described at the Future Land Imaging Public Workshop. A notable inadequacy of governance and management for the future U.S. Land Imaging program now appears reparable. The single agency governance for the operational U.S. Land imaging program recommended by the FLIIWG focuses resources, responsibilities, and accountability. The Committee applauds this recommendation and commends the Department of Interior (DOI) for stepping forward “to accept the challenge of this new century and assume leadership for the Nation’s civilian operational land imaging program.”<sup>22</sup>

### Why should DOI be the single agency for managing the U.S. Land Imaging Program?

Governance of the operational U.S. Land Imaging Program must be user-centric rather than system-centric. DOI is comprised of agencies and bureaus whose primary mandates are management of the nation’s land resources. DOI’s legacy reflects accountability to the user community.

### **The Committee strongly recommends that DOI be the single agency for governance of FLI.**

To ensure that these efforts do not lose momentum, it is imperative that additional steps be taken immediately by the FLI IWG and by DOI. The Committee strongly recommends that:

- The FLIIWG and DOI collaboratively must elaborate upon the description of the governance model to clarify that the “Lead Agency” is a **single** agency with full executive authority over the U.S. Land Imaging Program. Explicit authority should be documented, delegating management and control of the specified program resources for the U.S. Land Imaging Program.
- The term “Program” is defined in context of the President’s Budget to ensure that it is appropriated and authorized with sufficient funds by Congress and that the Secretary of DOI has directive oversight for the U.S. Land Imaging Program,
- DOI should immediately authorize the USGS as the entity within DOI whose mission will be the U.S. Land Imaging Program.
- DOI submit a budget proposal for the FY2008 President’s Budget that includes administrative and management costs for the U.S. Land Imaging Program.

The governance model introduced at the FLI Public Workshop includes a recommendation for a Coordinating Committee comprised of other agency representatives. As part of the plan development assignment from Marburger<sup>33</sup> the FLIIWG needs to clarify the role of the Coordinating Committee.

The DOI executive-led team and the FLIIWG should integrate the elements (Lead Agency and Coordinating Committee of

1 Statement from FLI website <http://www.landimaging.gov>

2 <sup>2</sup> James E Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Letter to Dr. John H. Marburger, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, May 2, 2006.

3 <sup>3</sup> Memorandum from John H. Marburger III, Director, Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy; SUBJECT: Landsat Data Continuity Strategy Adjustment; December 23, 2005.

agencies) of the proposed governance approach. Some guiding principles for this effort are:

1. To be effective, the Coordinating Committee can serve to provide user requirements input as a subset of the customer community.
2. A broader definition of the suggested Coordinating Committee should include other members of the user community. This body should certainly consist of senior level representatives from the agencies, as suggested during the FLI Public Workshop, but also respected experts in land imaging applications from organizations outside the federal government.
3. The committee charter must be very explicit about the cooperative, representation, advisory, and advocacy roles of committee members.
4. Authoritative decisions for the program must be the responsibility of the U.S. Land Imaging Program Director in DOI.
5. Accountability mechanisms also must be articulated for this committee as well as for the Program Director.

*What are the roles of other agencies and departments?*

DOI should be the single agency responsible for leading the U.S. Land Imaging Program; however, other agencies and departments play significant roles. NASA, using its scientific and engineering expertise should oversee the design, development, and launch of any remote-sensing, land imaging government asset. NOAA already has a sizeable responsibility with the NPOESS program and valued experience to share with DOI in delivering information to users. Other departments (e.g., Agriculture and Defense) are predominantly consumers of the data and information about land. In that recipient role, they help define requirements ranging from content to accessibility and delivery.

Therefore, we make the following recommendations in our capacity as the National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive Advisory Committee (a FACA committee reporting to the Secretary of the Department of Interior) and as members of the very diverse remote sensing user community.

**DOI should be the single governing agency for the U.S. Land Imaging Program. DOI also should establish an independent, external Coordinating Committee, reporting to the Director of the U.S. Land Imaging Program, to represent the interests of the broad user community.**